

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC  
600 AM EST WED MAR 6 2013

\*\*\*The Annual Statewide Tornado Drill Will Occur Today at 9:30 AM EST\*\*\*

As a part of North Carolina's Severe Weather Awareness Week, today at 9:30 AM EST, the National Weather Service in cooperation with local broadcasters will conduct the annual statewide tornado drill in the form of a Required Monthly Test on all NOAA weather radio and public alert systems. The alarm test will activate the State Emergency Alert System and be carried by local radio broadcasters. This will allow schools, business, and residents the opportunity to practice their tornado drills and safety plans. Every school, business, work place, and family across the state is strongly encouraged to participate in the statewide tornado drill.

Here are a couple key things to remember about today's statewide tornado drill:

- The drill will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System via the Required Monthly Test (RMT). There will not be an actual Tornado Warning issued.
- This drill and RMT will take the place of the usual weekly NOAA Weather Radio Alert test (RWT). That is, there will not be a weekly radio test done between 11 AM and Noon today.
- Most NOAA Weather Radio receivers do not sound an audible alert for the RMT product, but instead, may have a blinking light on the display to indicate that an RMT was received. As such, when the RMT for the statewide tornado drill is initiated at 9:30 AM EST this morning, there is a good chance that your NOAA Weather Radio will not sound an alarm.
- Since your NOAA Weather Radio may not sound an alarm at the time the RMT is issued, you will want to do one of the following: simply plan to start your tornado drill on your own at 9:30 AM; or, you can manually turn on your NOAA Weather Radio receiver and simply listen to the audio broadcast to hear when the RMT is issued, which will mark the beginning of the statewide tornado drill.
- There will be no follow-up statements issued by the NWS to mark the end of the statewide tornado drill. It will simply be over when your group, school, business, organization, or family feels that you have adequately practiced your tornado shelter procedures.

For more information about the statewide tornado drill, and north Carolinas severe weather awareness week activities, please visit the following web site:  
<http://www.weather.gov/rah/2013ncswaw>